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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Agenda item 7
Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session

Australia and New Zealand: revised draft resolution

Addressing the specific needs of vulnerable members of society in response to the world drug problem

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and young people and their families and communities,

Recalling the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem",[1] in which Member States reaffirmed their determination to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity, and peace, with security and prosperity, and reaffirmed their determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse,

Recognizing that, as part of a comprehensive integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem, appropriate emphasis should be placed on individuals, families and communities, with a view to promoting and protecting the health, safety and well-being of all humanity,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 72/139 of 12 December 2017, in which the Assembly urged Member States to respect, protect and promote the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, with particular attention given to the health needs of the most vulnerable,

Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 59/5 of 22 March 2016, in which it called upon Member States to develop, as needed, and implement national drug policies and programmes that take into account the specific needs of women and girls,

[1] General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

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Noting that the *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2017*[2] highlights, inter alia, that a significant proportion of people affected by drug use disorders do not access treatment,

Gravely concerned about the social and economic barriers, in particular poverty, that continue to hinder the access of women to treatment for drug use and, in some cases, a lack of sufficient resources allocated for removing those barriers, and fully aware that women are acutely affected by particular consequences of drug abuse, such as sexually transmitted diseases, and by the consequences of domestic violence and drug-facilitated crime,

Recalling its resolution 60/7 of 17 March 2017, in which it called upon Member States, in accordance with national and domestic legislation, to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate scientific evidence-based community, family and school age- and gender-sensitive drug prevention programmes and strategies addressing the needs of children and adolescents,

Recalling also its decision, in its resolution 60/1 of 17 March 2017, to continue to facilitate, in an inclusive manner, the active participation of civil society, including the scientific community and academia, in the work of the Commission, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and with the established practice of the Commission,

Noting that the *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders* include the principle of responding to the specific needs of vulnerable members of society, as appropriate,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to take additional steps to enhance their understanding of the specific needs of vulnerable members of society in response to the world drug problem;

2. *Also calls upon* Member States to take additional steps to enhance their understanding of the specific challenges to public health and well-being, and risk factors that make some members of society particularly vulnerable to drug use;

3. *Further calls upon* Member States to strengthen efforts to ensure non-discriminatory access to health care and social services for vulnerable members of society in the framework of comprehensive demand reduction strategies;

4. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate and in line with national legislative and administrative systems, to promote a participatory role for all relevant members of society, in particular those who are vulnerable, in the development and implementation of the national drug policies and programmes;

5. *Calls upon* national authorities, in line with national legislation and in accordance with the three international drug control conventions, to consider including in national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures and programmes, effective measures aimed at ensuring well-being and minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse;

6. *Encourages* Member States to ensure the involvement of women at all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes directed at or relevant to them, with particular emphasis on addressing the specific vulnerabilities and special needs of women, including issues related to pregnancy and childcare, women with substance use disorders in the justice and prison systems and the impact of other people's drug abuse on women, including exposure to domestic violence;

7. *Also encourages* Member States, when developing and implementing drug policies and programmes addressing the specific needs of vulnerable members of

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.XI.1.

society, to promote, as appropriate, a participatory role for young people and the organizations that work with them;

8. *Encourages* Member States to identify the availability and evaluate the accessibility of drug treatment and other related services for elderly populations and the impact on the elderly of family members' drug abuse;

9. *Also encourages* Member States, within national legislative and administrative systems, to work towards identifying and addressing the specific vulnerabilities associated with drug use disorders among indigenous populations, where appropriate, paying particular attention to overcoming barriers to accessing effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives;

10. *Encourages* international cooperation through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and other relevant United Nations agencies within their respective mandates, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building, upon request, to support Member States in addressing the specific needs of vulnerable members of society in response to the world drug problem and in continuing to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs appropriately informed about the progress made in this regard;

11. *Encourages* Member States, when developing drug policies and programmes addressing the specific needs of vulnerable members of society, to promote a participatory role, where appropriate, for the scientific community and academia, through the scientific evidence they provide, and for civil society;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the above-mentioned purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.